

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /103 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DSCHIELE:B

APPROVED BY IO:DRTOUSSAINT

L/UNA:DSTEWART

ARA/CAR:JTHYDEN

AF/I:JWHITING (SUB)

EUR/PP:WZIMMERMAN (SUB)

EA/RA:LMCNUUTT (SUB)

IO/UNP:CCCUTTER

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER (SUB)

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R 111908Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCAS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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USLO PEKING

USINT BAGHDAD
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, RQ, UN

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 DECISION ON PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 3613

1. UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION (COMMITTEE OF 24) ON SEPTEMBER 7 CONCLUDED ITS CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO FOR THIS YEAR BY DECIDING TO "CHARGE THE RAPPOREUR WITH UPDATING OF THE 1974 REPORT (ON PUERTO RICO) AND TO RESUME DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION AT ITS NEXT SESSION TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE MEASURES AS TO A FOLLOW-UP OF THE COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO."

2. STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CONTAINED REFTEL WAS NEGOTIATED BY NORWEGIANS AND CUBANS. NORWEGIANS WORKED CLOSELY WITH USUN TO ASSURE US SATISFACTION WITH STATEMENT, WHICH CONSISTED OF THREE PARTS: STATEMENT OF GENERAL AGREEMENT ON COURSE OF ACTION, PERSONAL VIEWS OF CHAIRMAN, AND CONSENSUS DECISION OF COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH WE MAINTAIN OUR VIEW THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO, INDEED THAT SUCH DISCUSSION IS

AN INTRUSION INTO THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT OUTCOME DOES NOT GO BEYOND ALREADY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE POSITIONS AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE COMMITTEE DID NOT VOTE ON A RESOLUTION THIS YEAR. WE HAVE MADE POSITIVE GAIN OVER WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY A VOTE ON A PROCEDURAL MOVE IN THAT CUBANS HAVE AGREED NOT TO RAISE PUERTO RICO IN THE GA.

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3. PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS ON PUERTO RICO WERE ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1972 AND 1973. THE 1973 RESOLUTION ASSERTED THE APPLICABILITY OF GA RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) (ON DECOLONIZATION) AND INSTRUCTED THE RAPPOREUR TO PREPARE A REPORT ON PUERTO RICO FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE. A DECISION TO "CONSIDER APPROPRIATE MEASURES AS A FOLLOW-UP" DOES NOT APPEAR TO BREAK ANY NEW GROUND. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THE ONLY APPROPRIATE

MEASURE WOULD BE A DECISION THAT THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO LIES OUTSIDE THE COMPETENCE OF THE COMMITTEE AND THAT THE MATTER SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED FURTHER.

4. EMBASSIES MAY WISH TO THANK FOREIGN MINISTRIES, WHERE APPROPRIATE, FOR EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN ON PUERTO RICO. EMBASSIES MAY EXPRESS SATISFACTION THAT COMMITTEE DID NOT PUT QUESTION TO VOTE THIS YEAR, BUT SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT USG POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED.

5. FOR CANBERRA: EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WE APPRECIATE CLOSE COORDINATION WITH USUN AND THAT, IN PARTICULAR, WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION OF THE HELPFUL EFFORTS OF PETER REID AND GEOFFREY FORRESTER.

6. FOR OSLO: EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH INITIATIVE TAKEN BY TOM VRAALSEN AND HIS CLOSE COORDINATION WITH USUN. THE FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF THIS YEAR'S COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT HIS EFFORTS. HIS CREATIVE IDEA THAT DEBATE SHOULD END WITH CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT RATHER THAN VOTE AND HIS ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS OF TEXT OF STATEMENT WITH CUBANS WERE ESPECIALLY USEFUL. WE HAVE ALSO BENEFITTED FROM AND APPRECIATE THE ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE OF SVERRE BERGH JOHANSEN. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE225437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DSCHIELE:B
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760344-0173
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760969/aaaachet.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USUN NEW YORK 3613
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <13 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE OF 24 DECISION ON PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PFOR, RQ, UN, COMMITTEE OF 24
To: ABIDJAN ADDIS ABABA BAMAKO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006